



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
Sustainability Committee Meeting
Thursday June 16, 2022
7:00 p.m.

Scott Elrod, Chair
Stefan Unnasch, Vice Chair
Rebecca Flynn, Secretary
Zeenia Framrose, Member
Walter Hays, Member
Jason Saleh, Member
Loverine Taylor, Member

VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING AGENDA

Remote Meeting Covid-19 Advisory: On September 16, the Governor signed AB 361, amending the Ralph M. Brown Act (Brown Act) to allow legislative bodies to continue to meet virtually during the present public health emergency. AB 361 is an urgency bill which goes into effect on October 1, 2021. The bill extends the teleconference procedures authorized in Executive Order N-29-20, which expired on September 30, 2021, during the current COVID-19 pandemic and allows future teleconference procedures under limited circumstances defined in the bill. Portola Valley Town Council and commission and committee public meetings are being conducted electronically to prevent imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees. The meeting is not available for in-person attendance. Members of the public may attend the meeting by video or phone linked in this agenda.

VIRTUAL PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM

To access the meeting by computer:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84902343819?pwd=MXVQenE0cmJDWGMZMTWZwRDR5S2haQT09>

Webinar ID: 849 0234 3819

Passcode: 310736

To access the meeting by phone:

1-669-900-6833 or

1-888-788-0099 (toll-free)

*Mute/Unmute – Press *6 / Raise Hand – Press *9*

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**
Speakers' time is limited to two minutes.
- 3. INTRODUCTIONS**
- 4. PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
 - a. Presentation by Viviana Balleza and Ereida Atayde, Green Waste Recovery – “What Goes Where?”
- 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - a. May 19, 2022
- 6. NEW BUSINESS:**
 - a. Review of published Housing Element
<https://www.portolavalley.net/departments/planning-building-department/housing-element-update-for-2023-2031/public-review-draft-housing-element>
- 7. OLD BUSINESS:**
 - a. Compost Day Planning, Nature and Science Committee, Bonnie Crater and Brook Coffee
 - b. Updates from Maryann
 - c. Updates from Brandi
 - d. Outreach to Potential New Members
- 8. NEXT MEETING AND PROPOSED AGENDA TOPICS:**
 - a. CalWater on the AMI Pilot Project and Conservation Programs.
 - b. WELO (Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance)
- 9. ADJOURNMENT** – The next regularly scheduled meeting is July 21, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.



TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY
Sustainability Committee Meeting
Thursday, May 19 7:00 PM
Videoconference Meeting

1. Call to Order

7:02 am

Attendance: Members: Scott Elrod (Chair), Rebecca Flynn (Secy), Stefan Unnasch, Jason Salah, Loverine Taylor, Walt Hays, Maryann Moise Derwin (Town Council Member), Brandi de Garreaux (Town consultant), Melvin Gaines (Town Asst Mgr), Laura Russell (Town Planner), Curtis Banks (Urban Planning Partners), Carla Violet (Urban Planning Partners), Aaron Pfannenstiel (Urban Planning Partners)

Public: 650-678-7562, Caroline Vertongen, Kristi Corley, MJ Lee, Nan Shostak

2. Oral Communications

- a. LT attended the terrific Valley Presbyterian Earth Day Fair and Feast. Provided outstanding food. Induction cooktop, books (Bob Barrett), recyclable, different milks, Heat pump/mini split displays (Lowell Sears), Richard Crevelt (solar), and many other displays and information.
- b. Caroline Vertongen had problems downloading the report. Link and instructions provided to her in the chat.
- c. Kristi Corley asked about DEIR for the Stanford Wedge redevelopment project. Concerned about increased emissions from traffic. Most committees do not provide comment on private development projects according to the Town General Plan and committee charter. The DEIR was open to members of the public for comment. The Sustainability Committee does not play a role in evaluating development projects.

3. Introductions

- a. Laura Russell (PV Town Planner), Melvin Gaines (Asst Town Manager), Carla Violet (Urban Planning Partners), Curtis Banks (Urban Planning Partners), Aaron Pfannenstiel (Urban Planning Partners)

4. Approval of 4-21-2022 Minutes, motion, seconded, approved.

5. New Business (Committee moved to consider the New Business before Old Business).

- a. Committee input on draft climate change and resiliency memo for the Safety Element (topic being recorded and will be posted to the PV website.)
 - i. Urban Planning Partners consultant team provided presentation. A recording and slide deck of the presentation is available at [Sustainability Committee | Portola Valley, CA](https://www.portolavalley.net/government/town-committees/sustainability-committee) (<https://www.portolavalley.net/government/town-committees/sustainability-committee>), by navigating down toward the bottom under "Meeting Resources".
 - ii. Clarifying questions:
 1. How does staff follow up on actionable items? SC would need to take on some of the projects. Goals should be forward looking but actions should be doable in the 8 years.
 2. RF: Unclear about the drought and precipitation. Expect more intense precipitation but shorter periods of the year (only 3 months instead of 6-7). 0.2 is the time when dryness is moderate drought (-1) threshold but projection is that the time period when the soil will be moderate or greater droughter will extend to as much as 2-5 months.
 3. RF: Cal-Adapt – state of California climate adaptation portal from the 4th climate change assessment and normalize for all California communities.
 4. Kristi Corley – Asked about infrastructure, water, sewer, trees, and future actionable items. Response: General code is broad. Policies need to be flexible for implementation. Implementations is how the goal gets implemented. Committee and Town to provide feedback about action items.
 5. Caroline Vertongen – concerns about a drought and ground absorption. Response: the report is based on guidance from the stat for the years considered.
 6. Nan Shostak (Chair of Geologic Safety Element) : Recommend that we add landslides to this section as well as a risk of drought to cause shrinkage and weakness in the soils and the hillsides and with more violent storms will result in more landslides, particularly in the hillsides and canyons. (Should be added to action 6-4 as well as other places.) Also in the event of earthquakes, more landslides are expected.

7. Kristi Corley: issue of septic vs sewer. Concern about loss of water from the property. Recommend subcommittee to provide more specifics and refer to Woodside safety element.

iii. Committee comments:

1. LT: Extreme Heat events – P12 – older residents often don't have AC, need a place to go. (Seattle has had a high death toll due to extreme heat events).
 2. JS: Broad strokes but need to change behavior now because they are contributing to climate change. Current behavior are safety issues because result in long term climate change.
 3. SE: Trees: Redwood trees don't belong in much of PV and probably half will need to be removed and replaced with habitat suitable trees. How will this process address that problem? How will town facilitate that? Takes a lot of community will and money. The safety element needs to plan for that. LR Response: She wants these conversations to occur and go through a public process and SC would work out how to implement these changes. Regulatory framework has the Conservation Committee encourages the removal of redwood trees if not properly placed. Also public relations approaches and financial approaches. Sustainability could do outreach and education. May need to update language to enable the committees to add that education.
 4. JS: How much have scientists weighed in these actions to determine the need. Policy should be based on evidence.
 5. SE: need for a multi year evaluation of the actions.
 6. RF: need for somewhat more specific actions – see attachment at then end.
 7. JS: need to educate about consumerism and air travel. This document should be an opportunity to set an example.
- b. Attendance at meetings. Zeenia has stepped down due to health issues.
- c. Redefining committee charter to have a maximum of 7 members
- i. Quorum based on potential members on charter not actual members. Multiple committees in Town are having problems conducting business due to lack of members. Moved, seconded, approved to change Sustainability Committee charter to 7 members. Quorum is now 4 members. The new language will read: "The committee will consist of 7 members appointed by the Mayor with the concurrence of the Town Council. A quorum for convening a meeting shall consist of 4 members, regardless of whether all seats are filled."
- d. New member search
- i. Recruit town residents who put on a terrific Earth Day Fair. RF to contact two individuals. LT to provide list and contact info.
- e. As time permits, concrete plans for monthly Public Service Announcements on energy and water – Time does not permit.

6. Old Business

- a. Updates from Maryann
- i. RMCP meeting, PCE talked about reach codes for Green Building Code. Council study section in August and will need to decide to send to committee. Many communities are going beyond. End of flow, banning gas, time of sale disclosures (fossil fuel use), permit replacement, equipment, electrical readiness.
 - ii. Water report: we are in a drought. But Hetch Hetchy is ok. There will be voluntary reductions. We are not doing reductions (Baswca area). If we don't show conservaton, then there will be severe consequences. We need to reduce 15 % voluntarily
- b. Updates from Brandi
- i. Update with the council on the update the Green building ordinance. Will be separating the green building ordinance from the greenpoint rater checklist from BuildItGreen and adding instead using the Cal Green checklist- reach tiers 1 and 2 which deals with all the other parts of the building code. Will be working with the contract building official who worked on this for Menlo Park. The recommendation will be to go all electric construction.
 - ii. Council adopted the SB1383 (edible food waste ordinance) and will be working with Recyclist to implement the record keeping.
 - iii. Engaged an intern to work on the climate action plan and will bring back to the committee. Open to having 1-2 committee members to participate. Scott and Jay expressed interest in helping out.
 - iv. State has implemented disposable food ware ordinance. PV will be updating polystyrene ban to match county ordinance to include disposable food ware
 - v. AMI update from Cal Water – they have started installing smart water meters. Still have staffing problems. Question about logistics of how they are prioritizing the replacement.

- c. Report from the May 16, 2022 Committee of Committee
 - i. Meeting for the Housing Element – Committee of Committees met. Proposal of a large 50 affordable unit project at Ford Field plus SFHs, ADUs and voluntarily upzoning a few properties.
- d. Subcommittee reports, as needed
 - i. LT recommends Steven Earle A Brief History of the Earth's Climate: Everyone's Guide to the Science of Climate Change

- 7. Next Meeting and Proposed Agenda Topics for June 16, 2022 7 pm
 - a. Compost event will come in June
 - b. LT digging into WELO (water efficient landscape ordinance)
 - c. Recycling and garbage sorting – invite greenwaste
 - d. Climate action plan subcommittee creation
 - e. Housing element
 - f. Safety element
 - g. Several committees to meet to discuss the draft safety element.

8. Adjournment at 8:43.

Attachment to Section 5.a.ix.6: Sustainability Committee – Climate resiliency Safety Element comments – Rebecca Flynn

Drought:

Need to clarify the drought situation provided.

Need to emphasize that we are in drought conditions. Last year we got less than half average precipitation levels and not that much more this year. See info listed at the end of this memo.

Additions to policies and more specific implementations to consider adding or more general versions of these ideas:

- Encourage expanded use of renewable energy, solar and wind power adoptions, battery technology, and electric vehicle expansion and charging infrastructure.
- Encourage and expand all-electric housing construction, green building checklists, increased air sealing and insulation practices, and passive house standards to reduce the need for energy and air conditioning.
- Encourage water use reduction including drought tolerant and fire-resistant native plantings, expansion of greywater and rainwater, and explore greater recycling of wastewater to prepare for longer drought durations and more strict water rationing.
- Expand the use of smart grid and electricity demand technologies to reduce strains on electrical infrastructure.
- Provide increased education to residents to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Provide resources to residents on individual emergency preparedness and climate resiliency.
- Encourage on site storm water management to provide greater resilience to drought and to prepare for more violent and intense storm events.

Resources for Drought information:

[California Water Watch \(https://cww.water.ca.gov/info?address=94028\)](https://cww.water.ca.gov/info?address=94028) Coyote water shed info (included SJ)

2020-2021 had only 10 inches.

This year 2021-2022 we are up to 16 inches and is not likely to go up much more for the rest of the year (ending September 2022)

